

**Chairperson:** Kathie Eilers  
**Senior Executive Assistant:** Jodi Mapp, 257-5202

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD  
GOVERNANCE AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, September 2, 2020 – 2:00 P.M.**  
**Teleconference Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**PARTICIPANTS:** Kathie Eilers, Mary Neubauer, Maria Perez, and Duncan Shrout  
**EXCUSED:** Walter Lanier and Thomas Lutzow

**SCHEDULED ITEMS:**

**1. Welcome.**

Chairwoman Eilers welcomed participants to the September 2, 2020, Mental Health Board Governance Ad Hoc Committee remote/virtual meeting.

**2. Prioritization of Committee Tasks:**

- Hear issues brought forth by the public at Board Public Hearings
- Serve an evaluative role regarding fulfillment of both statutes and other regulatory laws impacting the Board
- Assess MHB's function as a board
- Board Member self-evaluation of participation
- Nominating/vetting responsibilities of potential new members
- Onboarding and new member orientation
- Advocate for changes related to the Board's bylaws
- Pursue educational component opportunities for Board's self-development

Chairwoman Eilers expressed the importance of task prioritization. She stated nominating and vetting responsibilities are high priorities on the list, however, there didn't appear to be much progress made on identifying potential members. Candidates have been forwarded to the County Board Chairwoman for recommendation from the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force, the Mental Health Board (MHB), and MC3. The two vacant seats on the MHB represent the Substance Abuse Specialist and Community Stakeholder/Consumer.

Given the two vacancies, onboarding and new member orientation becomes key. Chairwoman Eilers, Committee Member Perez, Michael Lappen, and Jodi Mapp met several months back to discuss new member orientation and develop a process. It is yet to be finalized. It will be a goal of the Committee to have an orientation in place by the time new members are identified. A meeting of the aforementioned individuals will be scheduled to continue discussions and formulate a process.

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	<p>Chairwoman Eilers indicated she would reach out to Committee Member Lanier who is an excellent resource due to his heavy involvement in board work. His perspective on tools for functioning as a board and board member self-evaluation will be extremely helpful.</p> <p>Discussions ensued.</p>
3.	<p><b>The Milwaukee County Mental Health Board's Response to Institutional and Systematic Racism.</b></p> <p>It appears the County, overall, has taken a stance on this issue. In addition to what the County has addressed, the conversation should be had as a Board. Committee Member Perez recommended integrating a topic expert facilitator.</p> <p>Mr. Lappen stated he would like to see this initiative align with the County Executive's efforts, as well as the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). There has been a lot of work done, some of which was interrupted by COVID-19, going back to the declaration of racism as a public health crisis. Leadership at BHD was provided significant training in this area. Information was provided on the readiness assessment completed last year in which approximately 200 BHD employees participated.</p> <p>Director LaGrant indicated she spoke with Chairman Lutzow and Mr. Lappen about the evaluation of training offered across DHHS related to both the current and future state aligning with Milwaukee County as a whole. An option would be to have DHHS present the work done thus far and include goals to the Board or one of its Committees. She stated all things DHHS is now being reviewed through a racial equity lens.</p> <p>Mr. Muhammad stated he will be providing the Board with regular updates on the work done to create a more inclusive contracting process. Once privy to the ongoing efforts of DHHS, this Committee can decide how to support those efforts.</p> <p>Discussions ensued at length.</p> <p>Committee Member Neubauer recommended the Board look within itself to make a conscience effort to also be more inclusive.</p>
4.	<p><b>Mental Health Board's Research Analyst Position.</b></p> <p>A meeting will be scheduled with Central Human Resources staff downtown to hash out position details. Once the parameters have been put in place, the position can be posted. There will be an interview panel of five.</p>

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

<b>ADDENDUM ITEM</b>	
5.	<p><b>County Board Resolution File No. 20-287 to modify the policy of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and other Departments to adopt the Wisconsin Caregiver Law for barrable offenses as part of the background check process for contract agency employees who provide direct care and services to youth, adhere to the State of Wisconsin Rehabilitation appeals review process, retain the County's policy to recognize Wisconsin Chapter 948 Crimes Against Children as a barrable offense (for those offenses not already barred by the State Caregiver Law) and urge the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board which oversees the DHHS-Behavioral Health Division to adopt this policy. (Chairwoman Eilers) (The Mental Health Board, at their meeting on August 27, 2020, laid this item over to the October meeting cycle with a referral to the Governance Committee.)</b></p> <p>Mr. Lappen stated the Resolution proposes to relax some of the more stringent standards previously put in place in part to facilitate the hiring of individuals in the Credible Messenger Program. When this was presented to the Board for review, little was known as to the research and work done and deliberations already had surrounding this item. The goal is to reduce the barriers preventing people from getting hired due to indiscretions in their past.</p> <p>Committee Members were assured the Resolution was not compiling additional restrictions on the caregiver. It is meant to be more inclusive.</p> <p>Committee Members agreed to recommend approval of the Resolution to the Board.</p>
<p><b>The next meeting of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Governance Committee Will be scheduled at the Call of the Chair</b></p> <p><b>Visit the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Web Page at:</b> <a href="https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/DHHS/About/Governance">https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/DHHS/About/Governance</a></p>	